

MANAGEMENT AREA 22 (10,256 acres) - WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

1. Description

The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-577) designated two rivers on the Malheur National Forest to be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Malheur River has both wild and scenic segments designated, the North Fork Malheur River is entirely scenic. Both rivers are located in the southeast portion of the forest

A Wild River is defined as a river or section of river that is free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

A Scenic River is defined as a river or section of river that is free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

The Malheur River has segments in both wild and scenic river classifications running from Bosenberg Creek to the Malheur National Forest boundary. The corridor of the designated river includes approximately 3,534 acres, and is approximately 11.8 miles in length. The segment from Bosenberg Creek to the Malheur Ford is classified as a scenic river, and the segment from the Malheur Ford to the Malheur National Forest Boundary is classified as a wild river.

As identified in the Act, the Malheur River's outstandingly remarkable value is its unique scenic character. Upon completion of a resource assessment, river geology was added as the river's second outstandingly remarkable value. The river is in a rugged canyon south of the Malheur Ford, that ranges from 300 to 1,000 feet in depth. There are prominent rock outcrops, particularly along the southwestern edge of the canyon. The canyon bottom vegetation is park-like, with sagebrush/grass, meadows, and scattered old growth ponderosa pine.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act described the designated portion of the Malheur River as 13.7 miles in length. Since that time, more accurate measurements have been made. It has been determined that the designated portion of the river is approximately 11.8 miles in length (4.9 miles in the Scenic classification and 6.9 miles in the wild classification).

The North Fork Malheur River is a scenic river from its headwaters to the Malheur National Forest boundary, approximately 22.8 river miles in length.

As identified in the Act, the North Fork Malheur River's outstandingly remarkable values are scenic and geological. From the headwaters south to Crane Creek Crossing the river flows through a mosaic of lodgepole pine, meadow/wetland areas and old growth mixed conifer-ponderosa pine. South of Crane Creek Crossing the river is in a steep, rugged canyon with basalt rimrock above the stream course. The canyon is, in some locations 250 to 750 feet in depth.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act described the designated portion of the North Fork Malheur River as 25.5 miles in length. Since that time more accurate measurements have been made. It has been determined that the designated portion of the river is approximately 22.8 river miles in length.

2. Goals

Protect, enhance, and maintain the natural beauty, character, outstandingly remarkable values and water quality. Preserve the free flowing condition of wild and scenic rivers and their corridors for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (October 1988) requires that a detailed management plan be prepared within three years of classification for all wild and scenic rivers, outlining public use, development and administration. This plan will identify the specific direction, or prescriptions, to be followed in the management of the rivers. Until the management plan is completed, no timber harvesting or construction projects (i.e., recreation, trails, etc.) will be permitted.

3. Standards**RESOURCE ELEMENT STANDARDS**

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter IV, Section E, of this Plan applies to this management area, except where superseded by the following standards:

SCENIC RIVER SEGMENT**Recreation**

1. Manage dispersed recreation for semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation. Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted to protect the river values.
2. Larger scale public use facilities, such as moderate size campgrounds, public information centers, and administrative headquarters are allowed if such structures are screened from the river. Modest and unobtrusive marinas also can be allowed.

Visuals

3. Visuals will be managed as seen from the river and North Fork Malheur trail. Foreground management will be retention, however, partial retention may be used for necessary structure facilities. The visual quality objective of partial retention for the middleground will be met (see Management Area 14, Standards 17-19).

Cultural Resources

4. Recognize that cultural resources within and relating to the rivers are a valuable, nonrenewable resource. Identify, evaluate, protect, and enhance these resources in compliance with Federal and State laws and Forest Service policy.
5. Conduct a cultural resource survey of all lands within the corridor. Record historic and prehistoric sites, and evaluate all sites for significance.

Fish and Wildlife

6. Implement fish and wildlife habitat improvement/maintenance projects only if they meet the objectives of the area. Emphasis is on habitat improvements for enhancing the viewing opportunities for wildlife and to protect/enhance habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species.

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| | 7. Maintain dead and defective tree habitat capable of supporting 60-100% of the potential population of management indicator species for primary excavators. |
| Range | 8. Commercial livestock grazing is permitted under approved management plans which have analyzed compatability of livestock grazing with other resource values. Design range improvements to be compatible with the visual objectives. |
| Timber | 9. Land suitability classification will be determined during River Management Planning. Until the management plan is completed, no timber harvest will be permitted. |
| | 10. A wide range of silvicultural practices could be allowed provided that such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. The river area will be maintained in its near natural environment. |
| Minerals | 11. The Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may prescribe to protect the values of rivers included in the National System and new mining claims, mineral leases and existing operations could be allowed to continue (36 CFR 228). However, mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. |
| Lands | 12. Retain the National Forest lands within this area. |
| Facilities | |
| Roads | 13. Roads may occasionally bridge the river area. Short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads could be allowed. Consideration will be given to the type of use for which roads are constructed and the type of use that will occur in the river area. |
| Trails | 14. Maintain existing trails. Construct and reconstruct trails to the minimum level necessary to accommodate increased use, ensure public safety, and reduce environmental damage. Power equipment may be used to accomplish construction and maintenance work. Schedule this work during low-use periods. |
| Utility Corridors | 15. New transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, etc. are discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are indicated, the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values must be evaluated in the selection of the site. |
| Other | 16. Concentrations of habitations are limited to relatively short reaches of the river corridor. New structures that would have a direct and adverse effect on river values would not be allowed. Structures and activities associated with fisheries enhancement program could be allowed. |
| | 17. Water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited. |

18. Hydroelectric power facilities are prohibited.
19. Flood control dams and levees are prohibited.

Protection

Fire Management

20. Use planned ignitions, when within prescription, to achieve resource management objectives. Prescribed fire from lightning ignitions may be used to allow fire to play its natural ecological role.

Insects and Disease

21. Allow endemic infestations to occur. Epidemics that threaten scenic values or adjacent lands may be treated.

WILD RIVER SEGMENT

Recreation

22. Manage dispersed recreation for semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation. Motorized travel on land or water could be permitted, but is generally not compatible with this classification.
23. Major public-use areas, such as large campgrounds, interpretive centers or administrative headquarters are located outside the wild river area. Simple comfort and convenience facilities, such as fireplaces, shelters and toilets may be provided as necessary within the river area. These should harmonize with the surroundings.

Visuals

24. Foreground management will be preservation, however, retention may be used for necessary recreation facilities. The visual quality objective of retention for the middleground and partial retention for the background will be met (see Management Area 14, Standards 17-19).

Cultural Resources

25. Recognize that cultural resources within and relating to the rivers are a *valuable, nonrenewable resource*. Identify, evaluate, preserve, protect, and enhance these resources in compliance with Federal and State laws and Forest Service policy.
26. Conduct a cultural resource inventory survey of all lands within the corridor. *Record historic and prehistoric sites, and evaluate all sites for significance.*

Fish and Wildlife

27. Maintain fish and wildlife indigenous to the area with emphasis on preservation of Threatened and Endangered Species.

Range

28. *Commercial livestock grazing is permitted under approved management plans which have analyzed compatibility of livestock grazing with other resource values. Design range improvements to be compatible with the visual objectives.*

Timber

29. *Exclude timber harvest. Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management.*

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30. Cutting of trees will not be permitted except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience (such as clearing for trails and protection of users) or to protect the environment (such as control of fire).

Minerals

31. New mining claims and mineral leases are prohibited within 1/4 mile of the river. Valid claims will not be revoked. The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior may prescribe to protect the rivers included in the National system, and other existing mining activity would be allowed to continue (36 CFR 228). Existing mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and visual impairment. Reasonable access will be permitted.

Lands

32. Retain the National Forest lands within this area.

Facilities

Roads

33. No roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel will be permitted within a narrow incised river valley, or if the river valley is broad, within 1/4 mile of the river bank.

Trails

34. Maintain existing trails. Construct and reconstruct trails to the minimum level necessary to accommodate increased use, ensure public safety, and reduce environmental damage. Power equipment may be used to accomplish construction and maintenance work. Schedule this work during low-use periods. Unobtrusive trail bridges are allowed.

Utility Corridors

35. New transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, etc. are discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are indicated, the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values must be evaluated in the selection of the site.

Other

36. A few minor existing structures can be allowed if compatible with the primitive and natural values of the viewshed. New structures are not allowed except in rare instances to achieve management objectives (i.e., structures and activities associated with fisheries enhancement programs could be allowed).
37. Water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited
38. Hydroelectric power facilities are prohibited.
39. Flood control dams, levees or other works are prohibited.

Protection

Fire Management

40. Use planned ignitions, when within prescription, to achieve resource management objectives. Prescribed fire from lightning ignitions may be used to allow fire to play its natural ecological role.

Insects and Disease

41. Allow endemic infestations to occur. Epidemics that threaten scenic values or adjacent lands may be treated.

4. Schedule of Management Practices

MANAGEMENT AREA 22 - SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Management Practice	Activity Code	Total Planned for Decade (1990-1999)
RECREATION		
River Management Plan ^{1/}	AN112	2 Plans
Trail Construction	AT22	17 Miles
Trailhead Construction	AT22	2 Sites
CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY	AC111	10,256 Ac

^{1/}River Management Plan will establish a site specific schedule of management activities



